

Message Text

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44

ACTION ACDE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1951

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T VIENNA 2173

FROM US REP MBFR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS MARCH

11, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN INFORMAL SESSION MARCH 11, ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY NETHERLANDS REP, UK REP AND US REP AND EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN. AS HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED, EAST RAISED ISSUE OF INCLUSION IN REDUCTIONS OF AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THIS SUBJECT. SESSION SHOULD PROBABLY BE EVALUATED AS A STAND-OFF, WITH NEITHER SIDE SHOWING ANY MOVEMENT FROM STANDARD POSITIONS ON THIS SUBJECT MATTER.

2. MAIN EASTERN ARGUMENT WAS THAT AIR FORCES AND NUCLEAR

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WEAPONS FORMED AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS OF

BOTH EAST AND WEST AND THAT THESE PARTS SHOULD THEREFORE BE REDUCED ALONG WITH THE REST. THE MAIN ALLIED ARGUMENT WAS THAT, IN A PERIOD OF NUCLEAR PARITY, ANY HOSTILITIES WOULD PROBABLY BE INITIATED BY CONVENTIONAL FORCES AND THAT THE WAY TO REDUCE RISK OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS THEREFORE TO FOCUS ON REDUCTION OF DESTABILIZING GROUND FORCE DISPARITIES.

3. ALLIED REPS SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THIS CONTENTION. EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES DEVELOPED FEW NEW ARGUMENTS DURING THE DISCUSSION AND DID NOT SEEM WELL PREPARED FOR IT. POLISH REP STRULAK, WHO SHOWED MOST EMOTIONAL INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE, ARGUED MAINLY THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD BE REDUCED MERELY BECAUSE THEY EXISTED WITHIN THE AREA. EASTERN REPS STATED THEY WERE NOT SINGLING OUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR AIR FORCES FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT, BUT MERELY INCLUDING THEM IN ACROSS-THE-BOARD PERCENTAGE CUTS OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT IN AREA. AS WITH TREATMENT OF CONVENTIONAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EASTERN PLAN, THE NUMBERS OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO BE WITHDRAWN AS RESULT OF APPLYING PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WOULD BE SET FORTH IN A SEPARATE PROTOCOL.

4. EASTERN REPS STATED THAT THEY CONTEMPLATED REDUCTION OF WARHEADS ALONG WITH NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS. EASTERN REPS CRITICIZED WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR NOT PROVIDING FOR FREEZE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE AREA. KHLESTOV AGAIN MADE POINT THAT GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE REDUCED ALONG WITH AIRCRAFT. KLEIN INDICATED THAT EASTERN REDUCTIONS WOULD INCLUDE NUCLEAR ARTILLERY. EASTERN REPS INDICATED THAT THEIR MODIFIED SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL WOULD INCLUDE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND AIR FORCES, BUT DID SO IN TENTATIVE TERMS. NEXT SESSION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 14. END SUMMARY. REMAINDER OF TEST FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. HUMES

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